

Braley Again Urges Transfer of \$20 Million to Dubuque's Southwest Arterial Project

Today, Rep. Braley sent a letter to the House Transportation Committee asking to shift \$20 million to the Southwest Arterial fund.

Washington, DC - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) today sent a letter to House Transportation Committee Chairman James Oberstar and Highways Subcommittee Chairman Peter DeFazio urging them to transfer an existing \$20 million allocation to Dubuque's Southwest Arterial project. This funding was originally allocated for the Julien Dubuque Bridge project, which is currently stalled.

"I'm continuing my push to reallocate \$20 million for Dubuque's Southwest Arterial," Braley said. "This funding would help start work on the Southwest Arterial, boosting the economy and creating good paying jobs in Iowa. It's important to get the Southwest Arterial project moving, and I'll keep working in Congress to make the Southwest Arterial a reality."

Since coming to Congress in 2007, Braley has been pushing to transfer funds from the Julien Dubuque Bridge to the Southwest Arterial. Braley has already successfully secured over \$9 million for the Southwest Arterial project, including shifting \$5.5 million from the Julien Dubuque Bridge fund in 2008. This year, Braley secured an additional \$2.9 million for the Southwest Arterial in the Recovery Act and \$950,000 in the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

The full text of Braley's letter follows.

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May 6, 2009

Chairman James L. Oberstar

Chairman Peter A. DeFazio

Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways & Transit

2165 Rayburn HOB

B-370A Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Oberstar and DeFazio,

Thank you for your leadership and guidance on surface transportation issues. I respectfully request your inclusion of provisions in the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization legislation to shift \$20 million from the Dubuque US 20 Bridge towards the completion of the SW Arterial in Dubuque County. As you know, our offices have been in constant communication regarding this request over the last two years, as this is an extremely high priority for the constituents of Iowa's First District.

The City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, Dubuque Chamber of Commerce, and Iowa Department of Transportation, as well as the business community represented by the Dubuque Chamber of Commerce, are fully supportive of this transfer. Both of Iowa's senators are also supportive of this change. Currently, the funds available for the Dubuque US 20 Bridge will not lead to the construction of the bridge. A new Southwest Arterial, on the other hand, will result in considerable benefit to the area. The unanimity in support of this cause, both here in Congress and back home in Iowa, is an indication of the magnitude of its importance.

The choice between these two projects is one of inaction versus action. With this correction, it would be possible to see groundbreaking on the Southwest Arterial in the near future, including significant job creation, and a favorable impact on the regional economy.

Following is the specific change I request:

Amend SAFETEA-LU's High priority projects by changing the description for #2574 from "US 20 Mississippi River Bridge and Approaches, Dubuque Co. IA" to "Design, right of way and construction of the SW Arterial, Dubuque Co, IA".

I would be happy to provide all necessary information related to this modification, and please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bruce Braley